

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Paykin '082. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art of Figure 5 in view of JP '154 in view of Paykin '082. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '154 in view of Mastro (U.S. Pat. No. 3,394,939).

In view of the rejections in the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 have been amended and claim 3 cancelled.

Amended claim 1 specifies the first embodiment of the sealing device for a reciprocating shaft. This first embodiment is described in Paragraphs [0060] to [0071] in the specification and is illustrated in Figure 1. In particular, Paragraph [0065] describes that the auxiliary lip 43 extends to an outer peripheral side of the main lip 42 and is brought into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of an inner peripheral step portion 31 formed in an inner periphery of a rod guide 3, with a proper fastening margin.

The Yamashina patent (JP 2003-294154 A) neither discloses nor suggests a relationship between a reinforcing ring 32 and a rod guide (not shown).

A portion corresponding to an auxiliary lip is shown above a main lip 11 in Figure 1. The Examiner has pointed out in the rejection that the reference number “32a” is the auxiliary lip. This is incorrect. The reference number “32a” designates an annular step groove (see Paragraph [0019]).

When a pressure is applied to the auxiliary lip 43 in the present invention, the auxiliary lip 43 is brought into more close contact with the inner peripheral surface of the inner peripheral step portion 31 so as to enhance a sealing function. Since the auxiliary lip in Yamashina patent (JP ‘154) is not brought into close contact with the inner peripheral step portion of the rod guide, when a pressure is applied to the auxiliary lip, the auxiliary lip is merely deformed and cannot enhance a sealing function.

A high pressure seal in the Paykin patent is not provided with a rod guide and an auxiliary lip. The reference number “30” designates a spring groove for receiving a garter spring 32. A washer comprising flanges 35 and 36 is formed into an L-shaped configuration and a rubber 18 extends over an upper surface of the flange 36 in order to bear high pressure.

Amended claim 2 specifies the second embodiment of the sealing device for a reciprocating shaft. This second embodiment is described in Paragraphs [0072] to [0080] in the specification and is illustrated in Figure 2. In

particular, Paragraph [0075] describes that the washer 41 is provided with a main lip holding concave portion 41c and the auxiliary lip 43 is brought into close contact with a cylindrical inner peripheral surface of the main lip holding concave portion 41c and with an end surface of the rod guide 3, with proper fastening margins, respectively.


The high pressure seal in the Paykin patent is not provided with a rod guide and an auxiliary lip. The washer comprising the flanges 35 and 36 is not provided in a lower end with the main lip holding concave portion as shown in and claimed for the present invention.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should now be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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